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# **Foreign Broadcast Information Service**

**Newsletter**

**83-3**

**1 May 1983**

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FBIS NEWSLETTER2 MAY 1983Deputy Director, FBIS

[redacted] who has been Deputy Director of the Office of Research and Development since January 1982, was announced on 22 February as the new Deputy Director of FBIS. [redacted]

[redacted]

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MIDAS Milestone

Another milestone in FBIS modernization efforts was reached with the 12 April activation of Phase I of MIDAS. The Wire Service is now fully automated and two of the eight Daily Report books--Middle East/Africa and South Asia--are being produced for printing through the use of video display terminals. [redacted]

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Not unexpectedly, there were several problems in the first few days of operation, including some downtimes that delayed printing of the two automated Daily Report books. By Tuesday of the following week, however, the system had stabilized to the point that both books met the normal courier run. An appropriate ribbon-cutting ceremony, complete with a cake resembling a MIDAS editorial terminal, was held on 13 April with senior Agency officials and corporate-level officers from the MIDAS contractor, Logicon, joining FBIS officers for the celebration. [redacted]

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First MIDAS Messages

D/FBIS sent the first MIDAS message on 12 April:

"WA868 Bureau Chiefs from [redacted]

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"This message--the first transmitted via MIDAS--represents a major step toward the goal of a fully automated Wire Service and Daily Report. It also culminates the efforts of many persons, both inside and outside FBIS, to bring automation to FBIS. I congratulate all those responsible for MIDAS; this is a major milestone on our road to a modern FBIS of the future." [redacted]

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The first message received by FBIS utilizing the MIDAS system came from Jordan Bureau:

"Jordan: King Husayn Confers with Lebanese Envoy" [redacted]

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Congratulatory Messages

BBC sent the following message to FBIS on the startup of MIDAS:

"We in BBC Monitoring Service warmly congratulate you and all concerned on successful launch of MIDAS Phase I on 12 April and wish you continued success. Hope to catch up with you in not too distant future. Regards, [redacted] Head of Reception Department, deputising for head of Monitoring Service in his absence." [redacted]

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The following message was received from [redacted]

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"A cordial hurrah to you and FBIS from all of us here at [redacted] on the occasion of the inauguration of MIDAS.

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Though not directly involved, we nevertheless watched with keen interest the different stages of implementation of this great project, and since we will be indirectly profiting from this innovation, we would like to add a word of thanks to our congratulations. Regards." [redacted]

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Modernization Program

FBIS is picking up momentum toward the goal of using modern technology to conduct our business. The Systems Development Staff has been established, and will for the time being be located in the Ames Building because of space limitations in Key. FBIS systems development is designed to utilize new technologies of the news dissemination business and other modern technologies to enable FBIS collection capabilities to handle the worldwide information explosion, and to improve and speed up the handling of materials from all the various sources for which FBIS is responsible. At the same time, FBIS must be able to respond to the needs of both analysts and policymakers on a timely basis. [redacted]

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With the creation of the SDS, and the transfer to FBIS of experienced system development engineers, FBIS is embarking on a comprehensive program to define and procure a truly integrated FBIS system. As a "system" it will address the entire FBIS mission. Some key elements of this system have already been defined, others are in the early conceptual stages. Before we can procure an entire, integrated system, all requirements must be analyzed, total system concepts examined, and a system developed. The development and implementation will take place over several years. As with many complex technical systems, the integrated system may never be completely finished; as operational capabilities are achieved, changing technology will require new approaches and programs to effect still greater improvements. [redacted]

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Overseas Meetings

The Hong Kong Bureau chief and deputy participated in the China reporting conference held at the U.S. consulate in Hong Kong 28 February-1 March, with political, economic, and military officers from the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, the U.S. consulates in Shanghai, Guangzhou and Hong Kong, and the designated officer-in-charge of the new U.S. consulate in Shenyang. The conference focused on various aspects of PRC internal and international affairs and gave FBIS personnel an opportunity to discuss lateral servicing support to these missions. [redacted]

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Seoul Bureau editor [redacted] at the request of the political counselor in Seoul, attended a meeting of ranking U.S. military leaders to discuss DPRK reaction to "Team Spirit '83," the largest peacetime military exercise to be held since World War II. FBIS reportage of events and of North Korean media behavior figured prominently in the discussion. [redacted]

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FBIS Services

The USIS media relations officer and press spokesman for the U.S. delegation at the Qiryat Shemoneh negotiations praised the "fantastic" support FBIS Tel Aviv Bureau has been providing by telexing news items directly to the delegation. He mentioned as an example the 20 January Jerusalem newsbreak on the Tabah incident in which the Egyptians bulldozed a fence in a disputed area. He also said that the delegation "assiduously read" the FBIS text of Israeli Foreign Minister Shamir's 19 January interview. [redacted]

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The Director of Current Production and Analytic Support, in a 16 March 1983 letter to the Director, FBIS, praised [redacted] of NEAD for the latter's support of a special developmental analytic project for the Near East. The letter said that [redacted] input provided an "invaluable foundation" for the project and further expressed appreciation for his "contribution and insights." [redacted]

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The U.S. Embassy in Beijing commended FBIS Analysis Group for its "excellent analysis" of the Yuan Shouyi article in the 16 March Guangming Daily. The message said that they are to be "commended for plowing through a long article on a seemingly abstruse historical topic, for deciphering the allegory and for bringing its interpretation--which we think is 100 percent on the mark--to the attention of the China-Watching community." The AG article was written by [redacted]

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At the request of the NSC Staff, the FBIS Wire Services Staff provided special alerts to the NSC Staff concerning PRC reaction to the U.S. decision to grant Chinese tennis player Hu Na political asylum. The FBIS text of the 6 April PRC Foreign Ministry note filed by Okinawa Bureau was used to brief the President. FBIS was approximately an hour ahead of Embassy reporting on the diplomatic note. [redacted]

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Interest was high in the 2 April 1983 Gromyko press conference, the live broadcast of which ran more than two hours and was carried in its entirety on the FBIS Wire Service. In addition to providing the text to consumers in the Washington area, the Omani Government requested the text from the State Department; in response, FBIS London Bureau filed the material directly to Muscat. [redacted]

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Operational Developments

Paraguay Bureau's new telephone feeds from a technician at the American Embassy in Lima got off to a good start during February, with a dozen items processed from the feed. [ ]

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With the entry on duty of two new monitors, Swaziland Bureau now has additional capability in various languages such as seSotho, siSwati, Tswana, Xhosa, and Zulu, which are used in South Africa as well as Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland. It also has new capability in Ndebele, a tribal language of South Africa and one of the two major tribal languages in Zimbabwe. [ ]

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The 1983 edition of the JPRS Reference Aid on Current Chinese Serial Publications was issued on 16 March. It is essentially a full translation of the 1983 catalog of newspapers and periodicals issued by the China National Publishing Industry Trading Corporation, listing 1,536 titles. This number represents a 40 percent increase over the 1981 list. [ ]

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After receipt of pressfax equipment from Okinawa on 7 January and trial runs of Soviet fax transmissions from 26 through 28 January, London Bureau began regular, full coverage of these transmissions on 29 January. Seven-day evening editorial shifts were instituted in the PMU. The first dividend was received on 1 February when the bureau filed from the 2 February PRAVDA the most complete account of Andropov's remarks during a factory tour. [ ]

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An automatic recording system for the fax transmissions was designed by London Bureau's Engineer [ ] Without human interference, the system detects the transmitter's starting "blip," starts the first of a pair of recorders, automatically switches to the second recorder when the reel on the first has recorded four pages of copy, and finally rewinds the reel on each recorder at the completion of each load. [ ]

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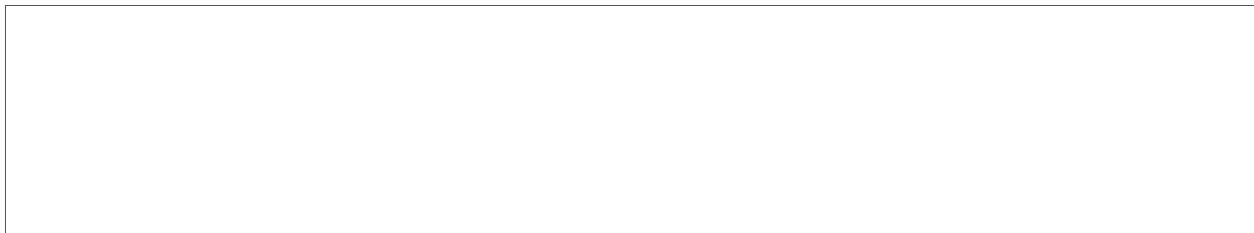
CTS Project

The Consolidated Translations Survey has undertaken a long-term project to determine how many of the approximately 5,000 Russian books on military affairs published between 1970-1979 have been translated into English. The information will be recorded in an automated file so that Agency analysts will be able to retrieve the English-language translations. [ ]

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Employee Awards

In 22 February 1983 ceremonies, the Director, FBIS presented the Certificate of Merit to [redacted] in recognition of her superior performance in the Federal service. [redacted] retired in December 1982 from the FBIS Reference Branch where she had served since 1967. [redacted]

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The Career Intelligence Medal was awarded to [redacted] on 24 March in recognition of 18 years of distinguished and dedicated service to the Intelligence Community. [redacted] specialized knowledge and expertise were an important asset to FBIS' collection program on Soviet military affairs. [redacted] retired from Production Group on 31 December 1982. [redacted]

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FBIS Recruiting

An FBIS recruiting trip for hard-to-find linguists hit a snag on 11 April when a demonstration by radical Columbia University students was held to protest Agency recruiting. The planned interviews on that campus were canceled. Nevertheless the FBIS officer, [redacted] was able to visit Harvard, Yale, NYU, and Princeton without problems and the resumes of interested Columbia students were forwarded to Headquarters for consideration. [redacted]

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Historic Note

The Lamson conveyor system is being dismantled at Caversham. It is to be stored in the hope that a museum can be found to give it a home. [redacted]

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